

Dear Esteemed Committee Members,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Michael Perrault, a Registered Nurse in an Emergency Department in the Upper Peninsula. I am writing to encourage the Safe Patient Care Act, which is a vital bill that addresses a critical issue within our current healthcare system in our great state of Michigan.

The Safe Patient Care Act is important to me as I am currently working in a failing system. I have currently tried to make positive changes for patient care and nurse burnout within the facility I currently work in to be shut down multiple times by hospital administrators. The burnout of these nurses is happening on a daily basis and the Safe Patient Care Act will keep myself as well as my cohorts working at the bedside. This past year I left my full time job as a Registered Nurse in Michigan to go work as a Registered Nurse in the State of California for a short period of time. I have since returned to working in the State of Michigan, but only as a per diem employee, and have considered moving back to the State of California. While working in California I took note of some key items.

The first key item and most important in my eyes, was the care that was being provided to these patients. I was able to provide the basic care and needs for these patients within their mandated nurse to patient ratio unlike I was able to provide while working in the State of Michigan. I was able to provide medications during the scheduled time to be given. Missed doses and scheduled medication due times are being missed weekly in the facility I currently work at in Michigan. If the Safe Patient Care Act was to pass I believe that this would be corrected. The patients I care for in California were overall much happier and better cared for than the ones I currently care for in Michigan.

The second key item I noted while working was the retention of their nurses in California. In the Emergency Department I worked at in California, there were more than 10 nurses in their department that have worked as Registered Nurse for more than 30 years. In the past 8 years, the hospital that I have worked at lost all of their senior nurses with so much knowledge. When I first started working at this facility I worked with nurses who had been employed as nurses for greater than 20 years, with a few greater than 30 years. Currently, the most experienced nurse has worked as a nurse for 9 years and the average nursing experience is two years. The facility I work at is a major trauma center, and we lost a lot of the nurses due to patient loads, and amount of overtime being forced. Not only did the nurses who stayed working in this department suffer, but also the physicians, and most importantly the care provided to these patients, with lack of experience and lack of staff. Personally, I know two nurses that would return to the bedside in the Emergency Department I work in if this bill is to pass.

The third key item that stood out to me was the overall happiness of the nurses in California. I was able to take a break every single shift in California and never missed it due to having ratios that were able to be covered by other nurses working. The only time I have taken a break as a Registered Nurse in the State of Michigan was during my nursing orientation. This is also leading to a major burnout, especially when these nurses are working 12 hour shifts with many of these shifts being a forced 16 hour shift.

Some may say that if this bill were to pass it would be detrimental, however I have seen working front hand in California that it works. Some may say the State of Michigan needs to become a compact nursing state, so nurses in other states can come to Michigan and practice, however I see this as a **temporary** fix to bring travel nurses in, and I believe will encourage more Michigan nurses to leave, so in turn this would be detrimental.

I personally know of one death and many medications errors that have happened at the hospital I work in due to the lack of required staff. This can't happen on a daily basis like it currently is. These are people's lives and no money should go above someone's life, and it is happening everyday from the lack of staff the hospitals in Michigan are providing us.

In conclusion, I kindly request your full support and the advocacy of this Safe Patient Care Act. The health and safety of our communities depend on the decisions you make, and I truly believe that your support of this bill will be a crucial step forward.

Thank you for your dedication to the well-being of our communities and for your time and attention to the important and critical issue. I look forward to hearing about your support for the Safe Patient Care Act and updates on its progress.

Sincerely,

Michael Perrault